MY HOBBY

I believe that everyone instinctively loves flowers, probably the Amateur Gardener the most. He derives much pleasure in growing flowers, and in many instances specializes in one or more individual items or groups. He is able to see the fruits of his labor and reap the rewards of a small amount of effort in a great way, by having a display of foliage and bloom the year round regardless of the season.

I am no exception. I am an Amateur Gardener and have specialized in lillies and hibiscus. I have been asked many times why I spend so much time in my garden. To answer that question is very easy. I find that I am more relaxed when I am working in my garden among my plants and shrubs and I gain much pleasure from such a small amount of expended effort. In this day and age when everything is moving at such a rapid pace one must have a means of relaxation. Flower gardening is one of the best.

I have also been asked why I specialize in lillies and hibiscus. That is another easy question to answer. First, lillies give me spring bloom at an early date, to start the blooming season on its way, and being perennial, they do not take much time to cultivate and grow. Hibiscus, with their evergreen foliage, furnish a good background for the lillies. And their perpetual blooming through the summer and fall furnish the bloom and color to make the garden an outstanding success.

I have found that hibiscus, with a minimum of care and effort, give me much pleasure. They are most easy to grow, and although they do not stand a great amount of cold, with a little extra care during cold weather they will thrive and give one the greatest amount of pleasure for the least amount of expense and effort. For the semi-tropical climate they have no peer in the garden competition.

I hope that this small epistle will tell you why an Air Force Officer picked gardening and especially the growing of hibiscus for a hobby.

- Major Robert A. Johnston, Orlando, Florida

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QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

The quarterly board meeting was held in the Chess Room of the San Juan Hotel, Orlando, Florida last February 14th and 15th. Due to lack of space the minutes of this meeting will not be published in detail at this time. If any member wishes a copy it can be obtained by writing to the Executive Secretary.

The resolutions that would effect the By-Laws of the A.H.S. that were included in the minutes of the board meeting of November 1958 were declared out of order since they were not handled at an Annual meeting and notice was not sent out prior to the Annual meeting. These resolutions were turned over to the By-Laws committee and are reported on elsewhere in this issue. Each member attending the Annual meeting will have the opportunity to voice his opinion and to vote on these proposed changes.

The convention city was picked at this meeting. We will hold our Annual Meeting in the San Jaun Hotel in Orlando, June 6th and 7th. The Mid-Florida Chapter will make the luncheon arrangements and other items of the program. You will find a coupon in this issue to be filled in and sent to the Orlando Chapter if you intend to attend the luncheon. This information is necessary so that a menu can be worked out.

The treasurer reported that the AHS had a balance of $109.84 on hand. The Seed Pod committee reported that the approximate cost of the Spring Issue was $71.60 with ads sold for only $52.16 so more ads will have to be sold.

The Nomenclature committee gave a complete report that encluded a proposed score sheet for evaluating new varieties previous to acceptance for registration and bloom type drawings for nomenclature identification. You will find these drawings in the center of this issue of the Seed Pod.

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